

Greek Myths

The ancient Greeks are known for their culture, the gods and goddesses they worshipped, and of course their warriors, all of which feature in Greek myths such as the one about Perseus and Medusa.

Myths are stories full of exciting adventures, fearsome monsters and brave heroes, who are often given special weapons and armour to help them on their quests.

Discover a special helmet in this worksheet, just one of many incredible artefacts in the Royal Armouries collection, that would have been fit for any ancient Greek hero.

Additional resources

You can find lots more fascinating facts and close up images of Greek weapons and helmets here:

collections.royalarmouries.org

Type **Corinthian** into the search box

Watch a video about the myth of Perseus and Medusa on our YouTube channel.



Fascinating Facts

A Corinthian helmet

This helmet dates from about 650 BCE, making it about 2,670 years old.

It is in the Royal Armouries collection and you can see it on display at our museum in Leeds.

It is made out of one piece of metal and flares out at the bottom to protect the neck.



Flower power

This helmet is very plain but there is a small flower with 12 petals just above the nose-guard. Someone must have taken a great deal of care to add this decoration.
Can you think why?

You can take a closer look at the helmet on our Collections Online website.

The myth of Perseus and Medusa

A young man called Perseus is tricked by the evil King Polydectes into offering to bring him anything he desires. The king demands the head of the gorgon Medusa. Perseus accepts the challenge, not knowing that this monster takes the form of a woman who has snakes instead of hair and one look from her eyes would turn you to stone.

Perseus just happens to be the son of Zeus, King of the Gods, and is given special gifts from the gods to help him slay Medusa. The god of the Underworld, Hades, gives him a helmet to make him invisible. Perseus succeeds in hunting down Medusa. He avoids being bitten by her vipers or turned to stone by her stare and eventually outwits her. Severed head in hand, he puts on his invisibility helmet and escapes her lair, sneaking past her evil sisters to safety.

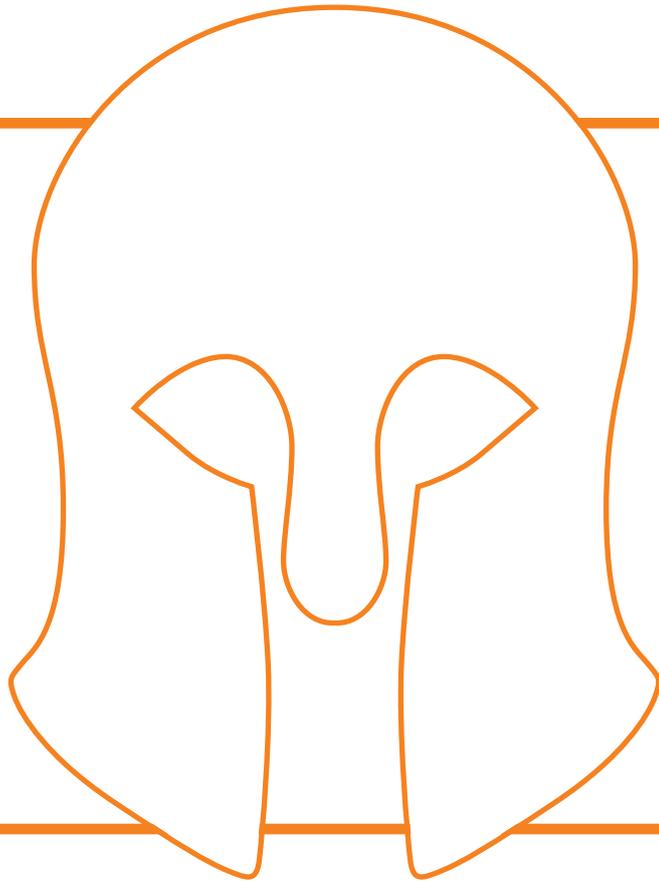
Things to do

Design

Design a decoration for your helmet.

It can represent you, the gods or be a picture of something to terrify your enemies.

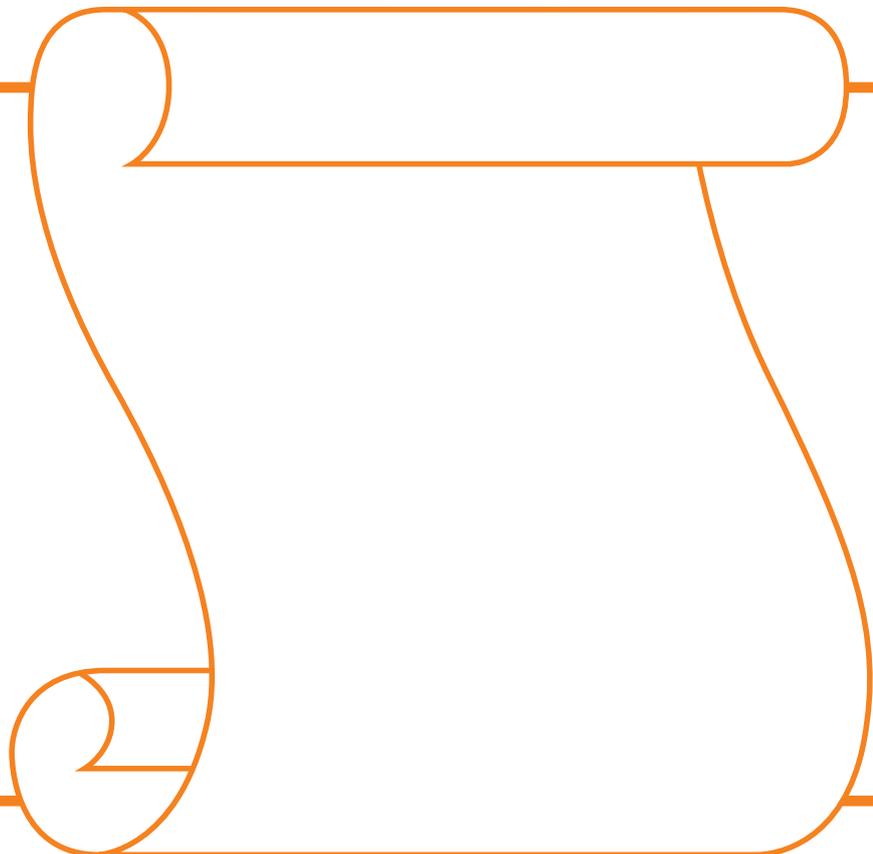
Perseus's helmet made him invisible, what special power does your helmet give you when you put it on?



Imagine

What kind of gifts from the Gods would you want to help you on your quest if you had to slay a gorgon? Make a wish list and describe the magical powers your gifts would have.

Why not have a go at drawing your gifts too.



Read all about it!

Write an adventure story about a Greek warrior who wore the helmet.

Don't forget to include an attention-grabbing headline, an exciting picture and details of:
Who | What | When | Where | How.

Keep in touch

We would love to read your stories and see your helmet designs.
Please email them to educate.leeds@armouries.org.uk